



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

PO Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

928 638-7779 phone
928 638-7609 fax
www.nps.gov/grca

Grand Canyon News Release

Release date: Immediate

Contact(s): Maureen Oltrogge

Phone number: 928-638-7779

Date: November 21, 2006

Development Plan now available for North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park

Grand Canyon, Ariz. – A Development Plan recently completed for the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park is now available to the public.

The Development Plan was initiated by Grand Canyon National Park management for the purpose of further refining the 1995 General Management Plan (GMP) direction for development on the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. The primary study area included five development nodes on the Bright Angel Peninsula: CC Hill, North Rim National Park Service Headquarters, campground, concessioner housing, and visitor lodging areas. The boundary of the study area also extended to include Lindbergh Hill, North Rim entrance station, and Arizona State Highway 67 road corridor, which traverses through the Kaibab National Forest between the north boundary of the park and Jacob Lake, Arizona.

Notification of the initiation of this development planning effort was included in an April 2003 public scoping newsletter. A second newsletter issued in April 2004 described in detail the proposed actions included in the North Rim Development Plan and solicited issues and concerns with the proposal. An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and made available for public review and comment during a 30-day period ending August 16, 2005. The EA evaluated two alternatives in detail, Alternative A, the No Action Alternative and Alternative B, the agency's preferred alternative. Several preliminary alternatives and components of alternatives were initially considered throughout the progression through alternative development and internal and external scoping. A Finding of No Significant Impact was signed by the Intermountain Regional Director in September 2006, followed by the Development Plan.

While some portions of the GMP actions for the North Rim have been implemented, and many projects are currently underway that are consistent with the vision outlined in the GMP, other significant GMP direction related to transit, visitor orientation/interpretation and structure utilization remains to be initiated. The park began this North Rim development planning effort

to provide a framework for focused analysis of these development needs and to assess environmental impacts before undertaking substantial program changes for the North Rim.

While over 4 million people visit Grand Canyon National Park every year, less than 10 percent of the park's annual visitation is recorded at the North Rim. The North Rim provides a unique park experience in a highly scenic natural environment isolated from major population centers. Visitors can enjoy spectacular views of the Grand Canyon, backcountry trails, rustic lodging facilities, and a campground in a ponderosa pine forest setting. During the planning process the National Park Service strived to preserve the rustic character and low key nature of the North Rim.

The North Rim Development Plan outlines a number of enhancements in visitor services, structure utilization, employee housing, and vehicular/pedestrian circulation.

Copies of the plan can be found online later this week at <http://www.nps.gov/grca/parkmgmt/nrdevplan06.htm>. CD copies are available by writing to Grand Canyon National Park, Office of Planning and Compliance, Attn: Vicky Stinson, Project Manager at, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023.

-NPS-